

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

GLENN K. MURANAKA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

**APRIL 12, 2019
1:20 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 709
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS OF THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, WARREN WATANABE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE ON
06-30-2020**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on GM 109, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC), Gubernatorial Nominee, Warren Watanabe, for a term to expire on 06-30-2020. The Department strongly supports this measure.

Mr. Watanabe has an extensive agricultural background in production, water resource management, and various leadership positions that will serve ADC's Board of Directors well. With many years in the agricultural industry in the State, Mr. Watanabe will provide an important voice on matters coming before the ADC.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



JAMES J. NAKATANI
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

235 S. Beretania Street, Room 205
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND
ENVIRONMENT

Friday, April 12, 2019
1:20 PM

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the
Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, WARREN
WATANABE, for a term to expire 06-30-2020

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee,

The Agribusiness Development Corporation ("ADC") supports Mr. Warren Watanabe's appointment to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Watanabe is well qualified to be confirmed on the Board of Directors of the ADC. He has extensive farming background and has been active in the Maui County Farm Bureau, the Maui Produce Processing Cooperative, and the Maui County Board of Water Supply. This broad agriculture development and policy experience will serve the ADC well. For these reasons, we respectfully ask for your support of Mr. Watanabe's appointment to serve on the Board of Directors of the ADC.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Arryl Kaneshiro, Chair
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair
Arthur Brun
Mason K. Chock
Felicia Cowden
Luke A. Evslin
KipuKai Kualii



Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawaii 96766

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk
Scott K. Sato, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349
E-mail: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

April 11, 2019

**TESTIMONY OF ARRYL KANESHIRO
COUNCIL CHAIR, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
GM 709, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE WARREN WATANABE
TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Friday, April 12, 2019
1:20 p.m.
Conference Room 224**

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of GM 709, consideration and confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Warren Watanabe to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as Council Chair of the Kaua'i County Council.

Warren Watanabe possesses the necessary experience, skill, and knowledge to contribute greatly to the Agribusiness Development Corporation. Warren's involvement with the Maui County Farm Bureau as its executive director since 2012, as well as being a third generation family farmer, is testament to his support for agriculture's past, present, and future.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of GM 709. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

ARRYL KANESHIRO
Council Chair, Kaua'i County Council

AMK:mn



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
Friday, April 12, 2019 — 1:20 p.m. — Room 224

UluPono Initiative Supports GM 709, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Warren Watanabe, for a Term to Expire 06-30-2020

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Murray Clay and I am Managing Partner of UluPono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and better manage waste and fresh water resources. UluPono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

UluPono supports GM 709, which appoints Warren Watanabe for a term to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

As the current Executive Director of the Maui County Farm Bureau, Mr. Watanabe is a longtime knowledgeable advocate for agricultural issues throughout the state. We believe his experience will help shape positive agricultural policies and initiatives going forward.

We look forward to continuing our work with him in the future.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Murray Clay
Managing Partner

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

999 Bishop Street, Suite 1202 | Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 ☎ 808.544.8960 📠 808.432.9695 | www.ulupono.com

GM-709

Submitted on: 4/8/2019 11:04:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/12/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sara Moore	Testifying for Kealia Ranch	Support	No

Comments:

**LARRY JEFTS FARMS, LLC
PO BOX 27
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759
(808) 688-2892**

GM709, Warren Watanabe
Gubernatorial Nominee to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation
Senate AEN
Friday, April 12, 2019
1:20 pm
Conference Room 224

Testimony by: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate AEN Committee:

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC, which is part of our family-run business of farms on Oahu and Molokai, under the administrative umbrella of Sugarland Growers, Inc. We have more than 35 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu. I am a volunteer director for the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). I am also the Treasurer for the Hawaii Farm Bureau.

Warren Watanabe comes from three generations of farming that went through transitions from growing vegetables to carnations, back to vegetables like cabbages, Maui onions and specialty crops like kale and swiss chard. He knows first-hand the challenges of farming in Hawaii and has been an advocate for Maui agriculturists as the Executive Director of the Maui County Farm Bureau since 2012. He understands water systems and shipping transportation issues that affect agriculture.

With his experience and dedication to Hawaii agriculture, Warren Watanabe will make a valued contribution to ADC, whose mission is to acquire and manage high-value lands, water systems and infrastructure for commercial agricultural use, and to direct research that will lead to the development of new crops, markets and lower production costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony

GM-709

Submitted on: 4/9/2019 6:20:02 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/12/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Testifying for Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Support	No

Comments:

GM-709

Submitted on: 4/9/2019 8:02:04 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/12/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole K Galase	Testifying for Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:

GM 709 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, WARREN WATANABE, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nicole Galase, and I am Managing Director of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 150+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **Strongly Supports** GM 709 for the appointment of Warren Watanabe as a member of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Warren Watanabe has a proven record of experience through his family farm and as the Executive Director of the Maui County Farm Bureau. His extensive involvement on Maui through the Maui County Board of Water Supply, Maui Produce Processing Cooperative, along with his experience on the advisory committee for the Hawaii Drought Council will be an asset to the cattle industry as we navigate improved production in challenging times. Warren has been a tireless advocate for Hawaii Agriculture, and will serve the industry well on the Board of ADC.

Warren has the support of the cattle industry because of his effective management in the most critical resource for our industry. Warren's background and experience have proven him to provide effective strategies in this role. We appreciate the opportunity to provide this letter of support and we urge you to support his nomination.

Sincerely,

Nicole Galase

Managing Director

GM 709 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, WARREN WATANABE, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee:

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The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **Strongly Supports** GM 709 for the appointment of Warren Watanabe as a member of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Warren Watanabe has a proven record of experience through his family farm and as the Executive Director of the Maui County Farm Bureau. His extensive involvement on Maui through the Maui County Board of Water Supply, Maui Produce Processing Cooperative, along with his experience on the advisory committee for the Hawaii Drought Council will be an asset to the cattle industry as we navigate improved

production in challenging times. Warren has been a tireless advocate for Hawaii Agriculture, and will serve the industry well on the Board of ADC.

Warren has the support of the cattle industry because of his effective management in the most critical resource for our industry. Warren's background and experience have proven him to provide effective strategies in this role. We appreciate the opportunity to provide this letter of support and we urge you to support his nomination.

Sincerely,

Nicole Galase

Managing Director



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

April 12, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON GM 709

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the
Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, WARREN
WATANABE.

Room 224
1:20 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports the nomination of Mr. Warren Watanabe to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Watanabe has served the agricultural industry for many years, including serving as President of the Maui County Farm Bureau. He has also served on the Maui County Board of Water Supply and the Maui Produce Processing Cooperative. His vast experience in agriculture serves him well, having represented the industry on committees including Advisory Committees on the Maui General Plan, Kahului Harbor Master Plan, Young Brothers, Superferry, Maui County Tourism Strategic Plan and Focus Maui Nui. He also represents the Hawaii Farm Bureau on the Hawaii Drought Council. Mr. Watanabe is a strong advocate for the "Important Agricultural Lands Initiative" providing a mechanism for ensuring long term viability of Agriculture in Hawaii.

His experience is complemented by a strong work ethic and dedication that will undoubtedly to provide positive leadership for the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Please accept our strong support for the nomination of Mr. Warren Watanabe to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

GM-709

Submitted on: 4/9/2019 12:53:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/12/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jimmy Gomes	Testifying for Ulupalakua Ranch	Support	No

Comments:

GM-709

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 9:54:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/12/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Takemoto	Testifying for Bayer	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Gabbard and members of the committee,

My name is Dan Clegg, Hawaii Business Operations Lead for Bayer U.S. Crop Sciences.

I am writing in strong support for Mr. Warren Watanabe's appointment to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mr. Watanabe has been a strong advocate for Hawaii's agricultural industry for many years. He is very knowledgeable about all of the agricultural issues facing farmers and ranchers throughout the state. He would be an excellent resource and asset to ADC and will serve the industry and State of Hawaii well.

We strongly urge your support and approval of Mr. Watanabe's appointment to ADC.

Thank you for your consideration.



Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

THE SENATE
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Friday, April 12, 2019

1:20 p.m.

Conference Room 224

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

GM709: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, WARREN WATANABE

My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the President for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association. HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 300 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture.

The Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA) **Strongly SUPPORTS** the nomination of Warren Watanabe to serve on the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) Board of Directors.

Warren Watanabe has proven to have understanding of the difficulties and challenges that face Agriculture in Hawaii. He also has insight on how to find the solutions to those difficulties and challenges. We believe that the ADC Board will be well served by Mr. Watanabe.

If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext 22, cell 960-1433 and email eric@greenpointnursery.com.

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,

Eric S. Tanouye
President

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association



Hawaii Agriculture Research Center

Administration: P.O. Box 100, Kunia, HI 96759

Ph: 808-621-1350/Fax: 808-621-1399

www.harc-hspa.com

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

GM 709

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, WARREN WATANABE,
for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

--April 12, 2019--

Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Russell Ruderman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Stephanie Whalen. I am Executive Director of the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC). I am testifying today on behalf of the center and our research and support staff.

HARC strongly supports GM 709 which is to consider and confirm WARREN WATANABE's appointment to the board of directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Warren has extensive experience in the business of agriculture from operating his own farm to being an advisor on many organizations/business associations that directly or indirectly support the agricultural industry.

His experience will help in guiding the ADC in its role to support the development of the emerging agriculture in Hawaii. Agriculture has been in transition for several decades and needs the input from experienced and dedicated advisors. Warren is just such a person.

We strongly urge you to support **GM 709** in confirming WARREN WATANABE to the ADC board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

GM-709

Submitted on: 4/3/2019 3:49:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/12/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-709

Submitted on: 4/8/2019 8:35:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/12/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Neal Fujii	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the nomination of Warren Watanabe. He is a supporter and advocate of local agricultural production.

GM-709

Submitted on: 4/8/2019 11:36:06 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/12/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan W Braley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-709

Submitted on: 4/8/2019 5:28:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/12/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anne Marie Jacintho	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

GM-709

Submitted on: 4/9/2019 4:56:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/12/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taylor Kellerman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-709

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 10:14:11 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/12/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Takemoto	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard and members of the committee,

My name is Alan Takemoto. I am submitting personal testimony in strong support for Mr. Warren Watanabe for the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

I've known Mr. Watanabe for many years now and have great respect toward his honesty, work ethics and dedication towards improving Hawaii's agricultural industry. His farm family background brings a great wealth of knowledge and compassion to the many issues facing Hawaii's farm family businesses. I believe he will be a great addition to the ADC Board of Directors as they address many of the innovative programs to help move the agricultural industry forward.

I respectfully urge the approval and passage of Mr. Watanabe's appointment to the ADC.

Mahalo,

Alan Takemoto

GM-709

Submitted on: 4/11/2019 12:38:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/12/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bud & Katy Gibson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-709

Submitted on: 4/11/2019 3:17:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/12/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Yamamura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Warren Watanabe is eminently qualified to serve on the Board of the ADC due to his vast farming experience as well as active participation in the Hawaii Farm Bureau. I urge your favorable consideration of Mr. Watanabe.

LATE

GM-709

Submitted on: 4/11/2019 5:15:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/12/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the confirmation of Warren Watanabe to the Board of Directors of ADC.

Mr. Watanabe has the requisite agriculture experience, temperament and integrity to be a significant asset to the Board. He has been a successful farmer himself and is very much connected to the farming community. He is well aware of the needs of farmers and has made it his life to serve the State by helping agriculture remain viable, and expand.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments in support.

Subject: I Support GM 709

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the committee,

I support the nomination of Mr. Warren Watanabe to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC).

Mr. Watanabe understands the agricultural community and is committed to serving the people of Hawaii and protecting our islands natural resources.

His experience and service to the agricultural community complemented by a strong work ethic and dedication that will undoubtedly to provide positive leadership for the ADC.

Please accept my support for Mr. Warren Watanabe to the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Mahalo!

First Name	Last Name	Email
Karen	Ah Mai	ahmai@hawaii.rr.com
Kay	Anderson	kayanderson1@att.net
Roy	Asao	rtasao777@aol.com
Gladys	Baisa	baisag@hotmail.com
RODRIGO	BALALA	rbalala@pineapplemaui.com
Phil	Becker	Phil@aikaneplantation.com
Tom	Blackburn-Rodriguez	tominmaui@icloud.com
Randy	Cabral	kaiwiki.1970@gmail.com
Justin	Cadiz	justin.cadiz16@gmail.com
Dana	Christiansen	chriss2001@gmail.com
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Thomas	Cook	cooksynergy@gmail.com
Bicoy	Dawn	dawn@molokaivoice.com
Lorie	Farrell	Lorie.farrell@gmail.com
Alex	Franco	Afrancokaupo@gmail.com
Clyde	Fukuyama	clyde@kahukubrand.com
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Bruce	Schnicker	bjschn88@gmail.com
Tom	Shigemoto	Shigemototh@gmail.com
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Michelle	Starke	robert.starke.007@gmail.com
Alan	Tada	flowersforever@hawaiiantel.biz
Pamela	Takamiyashiro	Pamtaka14@gmail.com
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GLENN	TOYAMA	gtoyama67@gmail.com
Alvin	Tsuruda	waihale@hawaiiantel.net
Jeff	Tupea	wjtupe@monsanto.com
William	Uemura	uemuraj001@hawaii.rr.com
Luly	Unemori	luly.unemori2@hawaiiantel.net
Darren	Unemori	dunemori@runbox.com
Philippe	Visintainer	philippe@coconutprotectors.com
Diane	Wakamatsu	dianewakamatsu@hotmail.com
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Ming-Li	Wang	mlwdjr@yahoo.com
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Louis	Yang	louis20yang@yahoo.com
Aileen	Yeh	ayeh@hawaii.rr.com
Randy	Yokoyama	rjyoko@gmail.com
ning	zhou	doraimee@gmail.com

Testimony from Warren Watanabe
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Friday, April 12, 2019
1:20PM
Room 224

Senator Gabbard,

Thank you for this opportunity to be considered for a Board position on the Agribusiness Development Corporation. Here are the responses to the questions. Please let me know if you have any further questions. Thank you. Warren

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation?

Agriculture in Hawaii is evolving with many challenges. ADC was formed to help agriculture evolve as lands become vacant. Many former plantation lands remain vacant, and we have an aging farmer and rancher population. We need solutions to keep agriculture viable. I would like to be a part of the process to facilitate the regrowth of Hawaii's agriculture.

(2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation?

I believe the role of ADC is to provide thoughtful input on staff recommendations and suggest opportunities for consideration to guide and ensure the future of agriculture.

(3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

I was a full-time farmer for most of my life and now I serve in a leadership role as the Executive Director of the Maui County Farm Bureau. Farm Bureau encompasses farms and ranches of all types and sizes giving me a wide range of insight into the challenges to viability and success. In addition to advocating for a healthy agriculture industry and providing a myriad of support services to our members, the Farm Bureau manages funding for various commodity groups, livestock, landscape and coffee as well as its' own programs. We look for ways to increase our level of self sufficiency developing programs such as the very popular Localicious restaurant promotion which has since been adopted by the Hawaii Agriculture Foundation. This program funds our minigrant program funding projects for farmers. In addition, we began AgFest and have grown it to become one of the most successful agricultural festivals in the State. Recognizing the importance of educating our youth about where their food comes from, we also have several programs that support our future agricultural leaders.

I have served on the Maui Board of Supply as board and eventually Vice Chair. Water is the key resource for much of Hawaii's agriculture; and the insights into the system that manages this precious resource has been a valuable education.

(4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

The ability to facilitate effective ways to truly move the needle on agriculture vs. relocating production areas within the state is one of my primary goals.

(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation?

Willing to listen - to various opinions and suggestions, as all options should be considered
Steadfast - to focus on achieving goals
Committed – to be accountable and participate in meetings

(6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation?

I do not expect to stand out but rather be an integral participant of an effective team that will work together to make ADC successful. I have served in various committees, including the General Plan Advisory Committee and the Axis Deer Working Group for Maui County. This meant working with people with diverse points of views while having them understand the needs of agriculture. I am passionate about agriculture and am committed to voicing my position on issues. It is imperative that we ensure considering factors are known while supporting the team's final decision.

(7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

No, I do not foresee any possible conflicts of interest. I've been in agriculture for my entire working career and am dedicated to working towards paving the way for a healthy industry.